

Living Today in the Hope of Eternity

A Five-Day Devotional
from Pastor Chris's Sunday Message

November 2 - November 6, 2026

Over the next five days, we are invited to face one of life's hardest truths with honesty: our time here is limited. Scripture does not ask us to ignore grief, uncertainty, or the reality of death. Instead, God meets us there and reminds us that because of Jesus, death does not have the final word.

Knowing tomorrow is never guaranteed can change how we live today. It can help us loosen our grip on control, notice the blessings God has placed before us, love people more intentionally, and make the most of the time we have been given.

Christian hope does not mean pretending that loss does not hurt. It means grieving while trusting that Christ is stronger than death. It means living each day with gratitude, courage, purpose, and love because we know where our ultimate hope is found.

This Week's Truth

Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, we can face life's uncertainty without fear. We can grieve honestly, love deeply, forgive freely, and make the most of the time God has given us.

Our hope is not in controlling what comes next, but in trusting the One who already holds eternity.

We are not promised tomorrow, but we are given today.

Monday, November 2 Proverbs 27:1

We Are Not in Control

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.”

Most of us make plans without thinking twice. We schedule appointments, plan vacations, think about next year, and imagine what life will look like far into the future. Planning itself is not wrong. In fact, wise planning can be a faithful way to use what God has entrusted to us. The danger comes when planning quietly becomes certainty.

Proverbs reminds us that tomorrow is never something we possess. We do not know exactly what the next day will bring, and that truth reveals how much of life lies beyond our control.

That realization can be uncomfortable. We like to believe that if we work hard enough, prepare carefully enough, or make all the right decisions, we can control the outcome. But life eventually reminds every one of us that we cannot.

Oddly enough, admitting this can bring freedom. When we stop pretending that everything depends on us, we can begin trusting the One who actually holds tomorrow. We become more attentive to the people standing in front of us, more grateful for the moments we have been given, and more willing to place our worries into God’s hands.

Today is not simply something to get through while waiting for tomorrow. Today is where God has placed us. It is where we practice faith, offer forgiveness, show kindness, and make love real. We cannot control tomorrow. But with God’s help, we can faithfully live today.

Reflective Thought: We may not control tomorrow, but we can choose to trust God and live faithfully today.

Prayer:
Gracious God, I confess that I often try to control things that were never mine to control. I worry about tomorrow, plan every possibility, and sometimes forget that my life rests in Your hands. Help me trust You with what I cannot see or change. Teach me to be fully present in the day You have given me and to use it for love, kindness, and faithfulness. Amen.

Tuesday, November 3 Psalm 118:24

This Is The Day

“This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

We often think of gratitude as something reserved for particularly good days. We are thankful when life goes according to plan, when the family is healthy, when work is going well, or when something we hoped for finally happens.

But Psalm 118 does not say, “This is the perfect day the Lord has made.” It simply says, “This is the day.” The day we have been given may contain celebration or disappointment. It may bring laughter or tears. It might feel extraordinary, or it may feel completely ordinary. Yet it is still a day God has given us.

Rejoicing does not require pretending that everything is fine. Christian joy is deeper than circumstances. It is the recognition that even when life is difficult, God remains present, faithful, and at work.

When we remember that our days are limited, ordinary moments begin to look different. A conversation around the dinner table matters. A quiet morning matters. A phone call with someone we love matters. An opportunity to help someone matters. A sunrise, a child’s laughter, music, friendship, worship, and simply being together can become reminders that life itself is a gift.

The question is not whether today will be perfect. The question is whether we will notice it. This is the day God has placed before us. May we receive it with gratitude.

Reflective Thought: Today is a gift from God—slow down enough to notice it, receive it, and give thanks for it.

Prayer:
Lord, thank You for the gift of this day. Forgive me for the times I rush through life without noticing the people, blessings, and opportunities You have placed around me. Open my eyes to Your goodness, even when life feels difficult. Help me rejoice not because everything is perfect, but because You are present. Teach me to make today count. Amen.

Wednesday, November 4 John 11:25–26

The Resurrection and the Life

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Grief changes us. When someone we love dies, there is suddenly an empty space where a familiar voice, presence, relationship, or routine once existed. Life continues, but it is different. Jesus never treats that pain casually.

In John 11, Jesus speaks these words amid tremendous grief. Lazarus has died. Martha is mourning. Mary is mourning. Their friends are mourning. And remarkably, Jesus does not offer them a simple explanation.

He offers Himself. "I am the resurrection and the life." Christian hope is not based on the belief that death is insignificant. Death hurts precisely because love matters. Our hope comes from believing that Jesus has authority even over death. Christ's resurrection means the grave does not get the final word. For those who belong to Christ, death is not the end of the story.

That does not mean Christians do not grieve. Jesus Himself wept at Lazarus' tomb. Faith does not eliminate tears. Faith gives our tears somewhere to fall. When grief reminds us that human strength has limits, Jesus invites us to place our hope in His strength instead. We may not understand everything that happens in this life. But we know the One who has promised us life beyond it.

Reflective Thought: Grief is real, but so is our hope: Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Prayer:
Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life. When grief feels heavy, and my own strength feels small, help me hold tightly to You. Receive the sadness, questions, and fears I carry. Remind me that death does not have the final word and that Your promises are stronger than the grave. Give me hope for today and confidence in the life You promise. Amen.

Thursday, November 5 Revelation 21:4

No More Tears

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Some of the most beautiful words in Scripture describe something we have never experienced: A world without death. A world without grief. A world without pain. A world without tears.

Revelation gives us a glimpse of the future God promises His people. It is not simply a slightly better version of our present world. It is creation made new. Everything that breaks our hearts will one day be gone.

That promise does not minimize the suffering we experience now. In fact, it acknowledges how real that suffering is. Scripture names mourning, crying, pain, and death because God knows exactly what those things do to us.

But God also promises they will not last forever. This is why Christians can grieve and hope at the same time. We can remember those we love. We can miss them deeply. We can cry. And we can still sing praise because we believe God's story continues beyond what we can presently see. That same hope also changes how we live now.

If God is creating a future marked by healing, peace, comfort, and restored relationships, then we can begin practicing those things today. We can comfort someone who is hurting. We can sit beside someone who is lonely. We can work for peace where there is conflict. We can carry hope into places where despair feels overwhelming. One day God will wipe away every tear. Until then, He often uses His people to help wipe a few away.

Reflective Thought: Because God promises that sorrow will not last forever, we can carry hope even through our hardest days.

Prayer:
God of hope, thank You for promising a future where death, sorrow, crying, and pain will be no more. When the brokenness of this world feels overwhelming, remind me that this is not the end of the story. Give me courage to grieve honestly and hope deeply. Use me to bring comfort, peace, and compassion to someone who needs it today. Amen.

Make the Most of the Time

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”

When we realize that life is fragile, an important question comes into focus: What are we doing with the time we have? Paul tells us to “look carefully” at how we live. That does not mean filling every minute with activity. Making the best use of our time is not about frantic productivity. It is about purposeful faithfulness. It means paying attention to what really matters.

Forgive. Let go of pride. Love your family. Serve your neighbor. Encourage someone who is struggling. Stand for what is right. Seek what is good. Tell someone you love them. Stop postponing the things God keeps placing on your heart. We sometimes live as though there will always be another opportunity.

Another Sunday. Another visit. Another conversation. Another chance to make things right. But Scripture reminds us that our time is precious. The awareness that life is temporary does not have to make us fearful. It can make us intentional. Because Jesus has conquered death, we do not have to spend our lives trying desperately to preserve them. We are free to give ourselves away in love.

Our days may be limited. But they can still be full. Full of grace. Full of forgiveness. Full of generosity. Full of courage. Full of faith and full of love.

Reflective Thought: Life is too precious to keep postponing love, forgiveness, kindness, and what matters most.

Prayer:
Lord, teach me to live wisely and faithfully with the time You have given me. Show me where pride, distraction, fear, or busyness are keeping me from what matters most. Give me courage to forgive, humility to make things right, and compassion to love the people around me well. May the way I live today reflect the hope I have in You and the life You have promised. Amen.

A Little Encouragement to Share

If these devotional reflections have encouraged you, challenged you, or helped you see God's Word in a new way, consider sharing this booklet with a friend, family member, neighbor, or someone who might need a little encouragement this week.

Sometimes a simple word of faith can make a difference.

Want to hear more?
Watch the message that inspired this week's devotional and continue the journey with us in worship.

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SCAN ME

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Sunday Worship
8:25 AM — Blended Worship
10:30 AM — Traditional Worship

Pastor Christopher Metze
St. Peter Lutheran Church
Chapin, South Carolina

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